



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
November 21, 2008

Decision Notice Burnt Tree Hole Fishing Access Site Improvement Project Environmental Assessment

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to replace the deteriorated boat ramp and redesign the ramp approach/loop roads at Burnt Tree Hole FAS on the Upper Madison River.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on September 12, 2008.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 31 days (through October 14, 2008). The EA was mailed to 29 individuals and groups; legal notices were printed in the *Helena Independent Record*, *Bozeman Chronicle* and the *Livingston Enterprise*; and the Draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>.

Summary of Public Comment

Three written comments were received on the proposed project. Comments were generally supportive of the proposal with two comments offering feedback regarding design details.

Comments

1) This comment supported the proposal and had concerns related to increased use and available parking, "The challenge we foresee with all three site improvement proposals is that no more than 4 parking sites are allowed for cars & trailers."

FWP response: The proposed project increases available parking as it creates four new spaces in the lower loop as opposed to four total spaces. The Environmental Assessment refers to four additional spaces for vehicles and trailers and mentions that all three alterations would improve traffic flow and parking efficiency.

2) We received a comment from a neighbor to Burnt Tree Hole Fishing Access Site (FAS) representing a ranch located across the river. They expressed interest in a cattle guard and fencing to mitigate cattle intrusions to the FAS.

FWP response: Although not detailed in the Environmental Assessment, the project includes installation of cattle guard and fencing to mitigate cattle intrusions to the FAS.

3) Comment in support of project.

Dear Fish Wildlife & Parks

The improvements to Burnt Tree Hole and Raynolds' Pass Fishing Access's look very good. At both sites it looks like with very little work, you can make allot of improvements for not very much money. Good job!!

FWP response: So noted.

Final Environmental Assessment for the Burnt Tree Hole Fishing Access Site Improvement Project

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on public comment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and the need to improve public access at the Burnt Tree Hole FAS, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, described in the EA as Alternative B.

I find there to be no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Mr. Joe Maurier, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Todd Garrett, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor
